

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03048 220656Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 COME-00 MCT-01 PM-05
PA-01 USIA-06 /124 W
-----080097 220659Z /13/73

R 201828Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3931
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARA TWO LINE TWO ADDED)

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, TECH, SP
SUBJECT: EXPLOSION AT LEMONIZ NUCLEAR PLANT CONSTRUCTION
SITE

REF: MADRID 3901 (NOTAL); 3898 (NOTAL); 2294 (NOTAL)

1. AMCONSUL BILBAO REPORTS THAT THE DEATH TOLL FROM THE
MARCH 17 BLAST AT THE LEMONIZ SITE NEAR BILBAO REMAINS
AT 2, WITH THE 14 INJURED ALL OUT OF DANGER. HE REPORTS
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FURTHER THAT, ACCORDING TO A WESTINGHOUSE OFFICIAL AT THE
SITE, THE EXPLOSION WILL SET BACK CONSTRUCTION FROM SIX
TO TWELVE MONTHS. IT COMPLETELY DESTROYED 1 OF THE PLANT'S
3 STEAM GENERATORS, EACH WORTH ABOUT US\$1 MILLION, AND DID
PERHAPS ANOTHER US\$1-2 MILLION IN DAMAGE.

2. WORKERS AT THE SITE REPORTEDLY ARE HOLDING ASSEMBLIES

TODAY, AND IT APPEARS THAT THEY WILL NOT GO BACK TO WORK UNTIL AFTER EASTER. HOWEVER, IBERDUERO, THE UTILITY COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LEMONIZ INSTALLATION, HAS GIVEN EVERY INDICATION THAT IT INTENDS TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT, AND THE WORKERS THEMSELVES, AMCONSUL BILBAO ADVISES, ALSO HAVE STATED THEIR INTENTION TO RETURN TO WORK, SINCE THEIR LIVELIHOOD DEPENDS ON IT AND THEY CONSIDER ANOTHER SUCH ATTACK UNLIKELY.

3. THE FATALITIES, AND THE FACT THAT THEY WERE DEFENSE-LESS BASQUE WORKERS, HAVE RESULTED IN AN UNPRECEDENTED BARRAGE OF CRITICISM LEVELED AT THE BASQUE TERRORIST ETA. ALTHOUGH THE ULTRA-LEFT ORGANIZATION HAS NOT DISSEMINATED THE USUAL EXPLANATORY COMMUNIQUE TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPLOSION, THE CALLER WHO WARNED A BILBAO RADIO STATION OF THE IMPENDING BLAST ABOUT 10 MINUTES BEFORE IT TOOK PLACE REPORTEDLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF ETA, AND EVERYONE ASSUMES THAT ETA WAS INDEED RESPONSIBLE. THE BASQUE GENERAL COUNCIL, ALL OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, ALL OF THE SIGNIFICANT LABOR UNIONS, AND EVEN "H.A.S.I.," A SMALL ULTRA-LEFT BASQUE NATIONALIST PARTY, HAVE STRONGLY DENOUNCED THE BOMBING. ALL IN ALL, AMCONSUL BILBAO REPORTS, THE ATTACK APPEARS TO HAVE EXHAUSTED WHAT RESIDUE OF GOOD WILL REMAINED IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES FOR THE INCREASINGLY ISOLATED TERRORIST GROUP. THIS GROWING ISOLATION IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BRING AN END TO ETA VIOLENCE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, UNLESS IT LEADS TO THE TERRORISTS' APPREHENSION. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, EXPLOSIONS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 324af2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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TAGS: PINS, TECH, SP
To: STATE
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